

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A system for providing program criteria comprising:  
a server computer storing a plurality of tokens, each token having a system unique identifier for identifying a predetermined at least one of an audio and visual program;  
wherein the server is programmed to provide at least one token to a remote computer based on received selection criteria.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the server is programmed to transmit a message to the remote computer based on the selection criteria, the message including the at least one token.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein the message is a text email message, the token being operatively associated with the email message.
4. The system of claim 3, wherein the token is an attachment to the email message.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the server computer is further programmed to store corresponding program data as an attribute of each token, the server providing corresponding program data with each token.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein a program database is stored at the server computer, the program database including the plurality of tokens identifying a plurality of at least one of audio and visual programs.
7. The system of claim 1 wherein, in response to a translation request, the server is programmed to translate a token into a useable format for programming a recording system to record a predetermined at least one of an audio and visual program in

a tuning space associated with the recording system.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the server is further programmed to select a tuning space based on identifying data provided with the translation request.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the server stores a unique identifier for each recording system registered with the server, each unique identifier being associated with tuning space information for each respective recording system.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the useable format includes programming data identifying at least two of date, channel, time, and duration associated with each token provided with the translation request.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein the server is further programmed to store the plurality of tokens as part of a programmable database, the server updating the programmable database in response to receiving an update request at the server.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the server is further programmed to notify the remote computer in response to receiving an update request that modifies program criteria for a program represented by the at least one token.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the server stores a different identifiable characteristic for each token obtained from the server, the server employing an identifiable characteristic to notify the remote computer of changes in program criteria for a program represented by the at least one token.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the server is further programmed to provide at least one of a token and updated programming data to the remote computer in response to receiving an update request that modifies program criteria for a program represented by the at least one token previously provided to the remote computer.

15. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components comprising:

a token database component for storing tokens, each token representing a different one of at least one of an audio and visual program; and

a message component with which at least one token is transmitted in response to a request for the at least one token.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15 having further computer-executable components comprising a user interface component for receiving selection criteria having program characteristics indicative of at least one of an audio and visual program.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 16 having further computer-executable components comprising a search component for locating at least one token from the token database component based on the selection criteria.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 15 having further computer-executable components comprising a program database component that includes the token database component, the program database component associating at least one attribute with each token, the at least one attribute being provided with the at least one token.

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 15 having further computer-executable components comprising a translation component for, in response to a translation request, translating a token into programming data having a useable format for programming a recording system to record a predetermined at least one of an audio and visual program in a tuning space associated with the recording system.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 19 wherein translation

component includes further computer executable instructions for selecting a tuning space based on identifying data provided with the translation request.

21. The computer-readable medium of claim 19 wherein the token database component comprises further computer-executable components for updating the programming data in response to receiving an update request.

22. The computer-readable medium of claim 15 having further computer-executable components comprising a notification component for notifying a remote computer in response to receiving an update request that results in modifying program criteria for a program represented by the at least one token.

23. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the notification component comprises further computer-executable components for providing at least one of a token and updated programming data to the remote computer in response to receiving an update request that modifies program criteria for a program represented by a token previously provided to the remote computer.

24. A system for providing program criteria comprising:  
means for storing token data representing a plurality of audio and/or visual programs; and  
means for providing selected token data in response to a query identifying program selection criteria.

25. The system of claim 24 further including means for updating the token storing means in response to an update request.

26. The system of claim 25 further includes means for providing at least one of a token and updated programming data to a remote computer in response to receiving an update request that modifies program criteria for a program represented by a token

previously provided to the remote computer.

27. The system of claim 24 further including means for translating a token into a useable format for programming a remote recording system to record a predetermined at least one of an audio and visual program in a tuning space associated with the recording system.

28. The system of claim 24, wherein the means for providing selected token data further includes means to send a message a remote computer based on the query, the message including selected token data.

29. The system of claim 24, wherein the message is a text email message, the selected token being operatively associated with the email message.

30. A method for providing program criteria to facilitate programming of a recording system, the method comprising:

sending a token from one computer to another computer based on selection criteria received at the one computer, the token representing a specific at least one of an audio and visual program.

31. The method of claim 30 further including searching a program database for the token based on the selection criteria.

32. A method for providing program criteria to facilitate programming of a recording system that , the method comprising

storing a plurality of tokens in a database at a first computer, each token identifying at least one of an audio and visual program;

receiving selection criteria from a second computer;

selecting at least one token based on the selection criteria; and

sending a message to a remote computer, the message having the selected at least one token associated with the message.

33. The method of claim 32 further including searching a program database for a token representing at least one of an audio and visual program corresponding to the selection criteria.

34. The method of claim 32, wherein the step of sending further includes sending the message to the remote computer based on address data provided by the second computer, the remote computer being different from the second computer.

35. The method of claim 32, wherein the remote computer and the second computer are the same.

36. The method of claim 32 further including updating the database at the first computer in response to an update request received at the first computer.

37. The method of claim 36 further including providing at least one of a token and updated programming data to a remote computer in response updating the database so as to modify program criteria for a program represented by a token previously provided to the remote computer.

38. The method of claim 32 wherein, in response to a translation request, a token is translated into programming data having a useable format for programming a remote recording system to record a predetermined at least one of an audio and visual program in a tuning space associated with the recording system.

39. The system of claim 32, wherein the message is a text email message, the selected token being operatively associated with the email message.

40. A system to facilitate remote programming of a recording system, comprising:

a server operable to receive a token having data identifying at least one of a user and the recording system and identifying at least one of an audio and visual program, the server being operable to communicate program data, based on the token, to a programmable recording system to effect programming of the recording system to record the at least one of an audio and visual program.

41. The system of claim 40, wherein the server is a first server, the token being provided as a request from a second server in response to a user selection associated with the at least one of an audio and visual program.

42. A system to facilitate remote programming of a recording system, comprising:

a first server operable to receive data indicative of a user selection, the first server providing a request to a second server, the request having data identifying at least one of an audio and visual program selected by the user and data identifying at least one of the user and a recording system.

43. The system of claim 42, wherein the second server is operable to communicate program data, based on the request, to a programmable recording system to effect programming of the recording system to record the at least one of an audio and visual program.

44. A user interface to facilitate remote programming of a recording system, comprising:

a selectable display portion associated with at least one of an audio and a visual program; and

a process associated with the display portion to effect programming of a recording system to record the at least one of an audio and visual program in response to

selection of the display portion, wherein the process is resident at a server operable to communicate program data to the recording system based on the selection to effect programming of the recording system.

45. The system of claim 44, wherein the program data includes local scheduling data for programming the recording system in a local tuning space associated with the recording system.

46. A method comprising:  
receiving program content criteria from a user via a communication link;  
selecting program content based on the program content criteria received from the user;  
transmitting a programming component identifying the selected program content, the programming component being operable to effect recording of a program corresponding to the program content.

47. The method of claim 46, wherein the programming component is transmitted to a computer associated with the user.

48. The method of claim 46, wherein the programming component is transmitted to a recording system.

49. The method of claim 46, wherein the programming component is transmitted to a server.

50. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of claim 46.



51. A method comprising:  
transmitting for display on a remote computer information about at least one of audio and visual content;  
receiving from the user computer a selection of the content; and  
transmitting a programming component identifying the selected content, the programming component being operable to effect recording of a program corresponding to the program content.
52. The method of claim 51, wherein the programming component is transmitted to the remote computer.
53. The method of claim 51, wherein the programming component is transmitted to a recording system.
54. The method of claim 51, wherein the programming component is transmitted to a server.
55. The method of claim 51, wherein the step of receiving further includes receiving information identifying the user.
56. The method of claim 51, wherein the step of receiving further includes receiving information identifying a device associated with the user.
57. The method of claim 51, wherein the step of receiving further includes receiving information identifying a local tuning space and system configuration for a device.
58. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of claim 51.

59. A method comprising:  
storing programming information;  
receiving from a computer user information and information describing at least one of audio and visual content;  
using the stored programming information and the user information to construct a token that includes information sufficient to program a recording system to record the at least one of audio and visual content; and  
transmitting the token via a communication link.
60. The method of claim 59, wherein the computer is a remote computer.
61. The method of claim 60, wherein the remote computer is a portable computer.
62. The method of claim 59, wherein the computer is a server.
63. The method of claim 59, wherein the user information includes information identifying characteristics of a device associated with the user.
64. The method of claim 59, wherein the step of transmitting further includes transmitting the token to the computer.
65. The method of claim 59, wherein the step of transmitting further includes transmitting the token to a recording system.
66. The method of claim 59, wherein the step of transmitting further includes transmitting the token to a server.
67. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of claim 59.